THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): The Department of Tourism, Government of India extends financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments, on the basis of specific project proposals received from them, based on their merits, interse priority and availability of funds. The funds sanctioned to Tripura, West Bengal and Kerala during the Eighth Five Year Plan are as follows:

State	*Amount sanctioned*
	(Rs. in lakhs)
1. West Bengal	656.30
2. Kerala	1014.87
3. Tripura	278.56

Measures to boost tourism in N.E. region

1539. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state what are the details of measures taken/contemplated by Government to boost tourism in North-Eastern Region in general and Assam in particular?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): The steps taken to encourage tourism in the North Eastern region include emphasis on Infrastructure and Human Resource Development and wide publicity of tourist attractions of the region. The Task Force of the Department of Tourism has prepared a report for the Development of the region through Tourism in the North Eastern States. The Department of Tourism has also identified Guwahati-Kaziranga-Shillong-Tawang as a travel circuit for intensive and integrated development.

For the development of tourism in Assam the Department of Tourism inconsultation with the State Government has idenfitied 11 projects estimated at Rs. 219 lakhs for Central financial assistance during 1997-98.

Increase in Non-Plan Expenditure of ITDC

1540. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-plan expenditure in ITDC Units/Divisions has been increasing during the last three years on accounts of entertainment expenses, foreign tours, consumption of petrol, telephones to unentitled staff, frequent renovations of officers' flats staff cars, overtime, conveyance etc.;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of non-plan expenditure to net profits during the last three years; and

(c) what steps are being taken by ITDC management to control the same and give the target for curtailment of expenses during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) and (b) No Sir. The percentage of non-plan expenditure (operating expenditure) to the turnover and net profit shows declining trend. The comparative details for last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (prov.)
Total non-plan expenditure	193.09	226.40	232.56
Turnover	235.93	298.05	314.54
% age of non-plan expenditure to turnover	81.84	75.96	73.94
Net Profit	43.17	71.65	74.34
%age of non-plan expenditure to net profit	447.28%	315.98%	312.83%

(c) The measures taken/being taken by ITDC to control non-plan (operating) expenditure include regular monitoring/ review by way of budgetary control, management information system,